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PAPERS

THE RELATIONS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE TO HISTORY AND TO PRACTICE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY THE RT. HON. JAMES BRYCE

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THE LIMITATIONS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

BY PROF. STEPHEN LEACOCK

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It requires no little hardihood to appear at this time and place as a critic of the system of federal government.¹ Such an attitude may well seem to indicate ignorance in a professor, incivility in a foreigner and ingratitude in a guest. But I am willing in the interests of scientific investigation to immolate myself upon the altar of my own temerity; I will merely remind you by way of personal apology that my own country like yours is organized upon a federal basis, and that if I have chosen to select the United States as the most conspicuous illustration of the case I wish to establish, it is merely because the advanced stage of federal development attained by this republic renders it the most proper field of investigation for the theorist. In this essay I deal with the operation of federal government in the economic and industrial sphere. It is my purpose to show that this system of government is developing, under modern economic condi-

¹ It goes without saying that in the title of this essay the term federal government is not used in contrast to state government, but as indicating the general system of divided jurisdiction existing in such countries as the United States or Canada, in contradistinction to the unitary governments of the United Kingdom and France.